

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Astrakhan Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 29 July 1952

SUBJECT Glavneftesbyt (The Chief Directorate for Oil Sales)

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

*Not graded

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Chief Directorate for Oil Sales (Glavneftesbyt) is the sole authority responsible for storage and distribution of POL products in the USSR. This agency, which is under the Ministry of Petroleum Production, has regional offices, storage and distribution points in all larger ports and industrial centers of the USSR. The regional office of Glavneftesbyt in Astrakhan is the main recipient of POL products in the Caspian Sea area. The head of this office is Voronstsov (fnu). In 1951 this agency sold POL products to its customers at the following prices, per metric ton:
 - a. B-70 gasoline 1,000 rubles
 - b. Diesel oil 650 rubles
 - c. Kerosene 200 rubles
2. In Astrakhan the Glavneftesbyt agency disposes of storage facilities for POL products well in excess of one million tons. The filling of the storage tanks is done by using either permanent shore pumps or pumps installed on barges. In Astrakhan there are six or seven barges, belonging to Volgatanker, a petroleum shipping company, which are referred to as floating pump stations

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION	OFF. Etc.	X											
ARMY	X	ATN	X	PBI															

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

(plovochiye nefteperekacheshnyye stantsii). The steam-operated cylinder pumps used on these barges have a total pumping capacity of 150-500 tons per hour. Some of the storage areas in Astrakhan, for instance areas No 5, No 8, and Kiyimka, have two or three stationary pumps with a total capacity of 300-400 tons per hour.

3. As POL products are not normally shipped from Astrakhan by rail, the level of oil reserves in this area is almost entirely dependent on the navigation seasons in the northern Caspian Sea and on the Volga. From the beginning of December to the end of March the ports of Astrakhan and Guryev cannot be reached by the vessels of Reydtanker. Volgatanker, the main company shipping POL products from Astrakhan to the north, cannot operate from November to the end of April. For these reasons the oil reserves at Astrakhan are normally at their highest at the beginning of December, and not much lower at the end of March, because during the winter months only local needs, rather insignificant in comparison to the stocks of Glavneftesbyt, have to be satisfied. Normally stocks are at their lowest in October, toward the end of the navigation season of Volgatanker, when this company makes every effort to increase its shipments to the maximum in order to provide its northern consumers with sufficient stocks for winter operations and to create sufficient empty space at Astrakhan for winter storage of POL products.
4. At certain periods the petroleum shipping companies have excess tanker capacity. The main function of these companies working on the Volga-Caspian Petroleum Conveyor is to deliver POL products to the Astrakhan storage areas (Kasptanker and Reydtanker) or to ship it north from there (Volgatanker). Since 1945, however, due to the decreasing oil production in the Baku region, these companies have periodically a surplus of tankers and barges during August and September. The reason is that, at the opening of the spring navigation season in the north, there are considerable stocks of POL which have been accumulated in the southern ports. By August this backlog has been moved and the current production is not sufficient to keep all available vessels busy. From December to March most of the petroleum fleet is inactive and only a few tankers are kept in operation on the Baku-Krasnovodsk and the Baku-Makhachkala lines, which are only of local importance.
5. At other times the lack of storage space in Astrakhan is a serious problem because at such times the operations of Kasptanker and Reydtanker are delayed. The critical period is always April, the month during which these two companies start filling the storage areas, while Volgatanker, which moves POL supplies out of these areas, starts its own operations only around 1 May. As all storage areas in Baku are filled during the winter months, tankers must start immediately unloading the Baku stocks. Soon after the start of the Caspian Sea navigation season, storages at Astrakhan are filled to capacity and cannot accept cargoes brought by Reydtanker. The lay-over of vessels is at times six to seven days and represents some 100 thousand tons per day (tonazhosutki). In 1951 the monthly expense for demurrage averaged about 200 thousand rubles.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

25X1 6. When there is a shortage of storage space, the responsible offices of Glavneftebyts try desperately to correct the situation because they fear official blame. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] In such cases the authorities responsible for storage will resort to devious and uneconomic means to create space artificially even if it means shipping POL products by rail to localities which do not need them. For example, a shipment might go out by rail as far as Stalingrad, be returned from there, and then sent by Volgatanker to an intermediate point. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] they vary according to the product and that the highest rate is paid for gasoline, and the lowest for boiler or furnace mazut.

25X1

25X1

25X1

7. Payments by Glavneftebyts are made to Reydtanker immediately after presentation of the freight bill and are effected by way of a transfer account, at the Astrakhan branch of the State Bank. (Presumably the same procedure is applied to Kasptanker and Volgatanker.) Usually the entire financial transaction takes three or four days. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

25X1

(a) [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

25X1

[REDACTED] The largest refineries are undoubtedly in Baku, some smaller ones in Makhachkala and Guryev. In Astrakhan there are no refineries. The overall production of crude oil in this region can be determined with fair accuracy on the basis of the quantities of POL products transported by Reydtanker. Its annual capacity is 8.5 million tons. [REDACTED]

(b) [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

[REDACTED] The shipping documents never specify whether a cargo is for normal consumption through Glavneftebyts channels or for the state reserves. Since all shipments are delivered to Glavneftebyts, there is no way for an employee of the shipping company to determine the purpose and final destination of the cargo. It is possible, of course, that some shipments are specifically for the state reserves and that in such cases instructions are sent directly to Glavneftebyts.

(c) [REDACTED]

-end-

SECRET